

A QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER FOR OUR
DONORS AND FRIENDS
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www.mccf-in.org

Dates to Remember

August 17 - MCCF Board will take action on 2009 Grant Applications.

MCCF Board of Directors

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Moving?



Even if just seasonally, we'd like to know so that your copy of *BRIDGES* continues without interruption. Please notify us at 765-362-1267 or cheryl@mccf-in.org

Youth as Resources Develops Young Philanthropists

by Cheryl Keim

July 2009

Youth as Resources (YAR) is one of several programs run by the Montgomery County Youth Service Bureau. Youth as Resources is a philanthropic, youth-led program that does various service projects and fund-raisers. MCYSB Executive Director, Michael Scime describes it "as a Junior Achievement program for Non Profits." There are three basic components to the program. First, the youth earn money to be granted to other youth led service projects. Secondly, they accept, review and award grants to the applicants who are youth wishing to do community service project. In addition, YAR members themselves perform community service.

Newly elected officers of the YAR Board include co-presidents Emily Surface and Lindzy Griggs. In a recent telephone visit with Lindzy I learned that she is starting her third year in the organization, which is overseen by Jennifer White, Program Coordinator. Enthusiasm radiated the phone line as she shared the many worthwhile grants they've been able to award. They regularly support the efforts of the Southmont Café which hosts a meal that earns money for a scholarship program. They have provided funds for Eagle Scout projects. A recent activity that she especially liked granting was to the Southmont Wrestling Camp. Two college wrestlers along with high school wrestling team members held a camp for youth. Their funding offset the cost of lunches and camp tee-shirts. What she liked about it was that it "provided a good environment for young kids." The older wrestlers served as positive role models. In addition to wrestling skills, the young athletes learned life lessons, such as the value of hard work and how to win *and* lose with grace. An upcoming service project that she is looking forward to is for the Home for Friendless Animals.

In addition to the basic concept of earning money and giving it away, last year the group had the opportunity to learn about endowments. The Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Indiana, through Indiana Grant-makers Alliance, offered a challenge grant to youth organizations to earn \$5,000, which they would then match with \$5,000 with the stipulation that the money be used to establish an endowment fund for the organization.

YAR applied for the grant opportunity and was selected. Scime suspects their application was looked upon so favorably because it proposed that the youth themselves would be earning the entire amount. Once word came that they were chosen, the really hard work began. They earned the money in a variety of ways such as packing groceries at County Market, conducting Longaberger Basket Bingo, working a Haunted Barn and Hayride as well as by making direct asks. By the end of the one year time limit they were just \$520 shy of the \$5,000 goal and Montgomery County Community Foundation happily filled the gap. The \$10,000 was used to establish The Youth as Resources Fund.

Through this project, members were able to learn and understand the concept of endowment funds, quite a big notion for teens to grasp. Lindzy said she had no idea what an endowment was before being involved with YAR. She wishes more kids would become involved in YAR. Her favorite thing about YAR is "getting out in the community and helping people." And as a bonus, she is able to make new friends from the other high schools that she would not have met otherwise. Michael is right; YAR is a training ground for future nonprofit executives, staff members and board members – maybe one day Lindzy Griggs will be President of the MCCF Board of Directors!

To learn more about YAR call Jennifer at 362-0694 or visit www.mcysb.org. Contributions to the Youth as Resources Fund, or any MCCF Fund are always welcome.



Lindzy, 2nd row, far right and Emily, front row, far left are newly elected co-presidents of YAR.

Photo provided by MCYSB

The Harold B. Taylor Fund: Investing in the Future

by Cheryl Keim

Harold B. Taylor farmed most of his life, starting out with 80 acres in Brown Township here in Montgomery County where he was born and raised. He eventually built it up to 2,700 acres, most of it contiguous, making it perhaps the largest farm in the state owned by an individual, rather than a corporation. In addition, he was State Supervisor of Agricultural Education at Purdue and Department of Public Instruction and Professor Emeritus at Purdue University for 35 years. He also served 20 years (1946-1966) as the State Leader of 4-H Clubs. Under his leadership, 4-H experienced significant growth. Membership grew from 60,000 members to 95,000 members in 1966. The number of projects offered grew from 25 to 45. The number of adult leaders, an important component to successful clubs, increased from 3,000 to 13,000.

Raised in West Lafayette, son John recalls that his father would take him and his brothers, Karl and Walter, (fondly referred to as the "indentured sons"), down to the farm to do such things as picking up sticks and rocks. In addition to a strong work ethic, John credits his father for instilling two very important life and business lessons in him. The first he says is "don't worry about what you cannot control, such as the weather and crop prices." But of course, certainly do well what you can control. The second is to always "treat people like you want to be treated." Author Clarence B. Kelland said, "My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it." That seems to have certainly rang true with the Taylors. After a series of positions in corporate America which took him from coast to coast and a few places in between, he is now self employed as a Sales and Marketing Consultant and resides in Tampa, Florida.

Not only did John learn good business practices from his father, he also learned service and philanthropy. Harold served as President and District Governor of Rotary and was a church trustee. John went through the ROTC program at Purdue and served in the Air Force. He is currently an Easter Seals Board Member and the treasurer of the condominium association where he lives. Harold initiated the Indiana 4-H Foundation, resulting in the development of the Indiana 4-H Leadership Center. John, to honor his

father, established the Harold B. Taylor Fund which very fittingly benefits Montgomery County 4-H youth attending 4-H Camp. Interestingly, the tag line for the 4-H Foundation is "Investing in a Bright Green Future," a line that would also be suitable for the Harold B. Taylor Fund.

4-H Camp is held at Shakamak State Park each June and is for children who have completed grades 3 through 6. Junior Leaders (those who have completed 8th grade through 12 graders) serve as camp counselors. Sherry Legg-Young, Extension Educator-4-H Youth Development reported that this year 46 local youths joined others from Hendricks, Clay, Sullivan and Vigo counties for three days of learning, fun and adventure. The campers participated in a variety of activities which foster team building skills and personal development.

David Odle, a junior at North Montgomery High School this fall and his sister Lauren, a 6th grader, attended the camp this summer. They are the children of Karin and Scott Odle. David attended as a camp counselor. One of his responsibilities was the boats, where he helped teach the campers basic water safety and rowing skills. When asked if he chose that activity because of a particular skill or interest, he replied "no, size is helpful." Part of the job you see is getting the boats in and out of the water. Nonetheless, he must have been a very good instructor since no boats capsized.

A challenge he said they faced as counselors was that many campers were homesick. While that is a common occurrence when young people are away from home, he said it is compounded by the fact that so many of the children have cell phones and call home excessively. He said they talked to the children and reminded them that camp is a time and place to explore new activities and to learn self reliance. He was proud that they were able to quickly overcome that problem.

Lauren attended camp for her first time this year and she especially liked going out on the lake in the boat. It was her first time to row a boat; however she has paddled a canoe before. She says that rowing the boat is easier than paddling a canoe because first of all, there are three people, so you don't have to row the entire time. Also there is a place to rest the paddles so that you don't have to hold

them all the time and finally, the boat is more stable than a canoe and less likely to overturn.

She also liked the Optimist Challenge. She described it as a variety of physical challenges that she and others had to overcome together. In one instance, she described a tarp on the ground that they had to get under without using anything below the elbows (hands and fingers) or their mouth. She said that a couple of them were able to lift it with their feet so that the rest could slip under it.

She made many new friends in addition to those she has from the county. One new friend is in many of the same 4-H projects and they plan to communicate via email to share ideas about their projects. This year Lauren is in six projects: swine, sheep, sewing, home furnishing, child development and crafts. When asked would she like to attend camp as a counselor when she's older, Lauren said "Yes, I enjoy helping other kids; it will be fun." After talking with Lauren and David, it seems to me that indeed, the Taylor Fund is "Investing in a Bright Green Future" with dividends that will pay forward for a very long time.



Campers gather before heading to their next activity.

Photo provided by 4-H



Our mission is to build bridges
to support the future of
Montgomery County.

The Inside *Scoop*



Alli Thompson, a recent Edith V. Bott's Nursing Scholarship recipient, helped prepare the mailing of the 2008 Annual Report. She is the daughter of Jackie and Alan Thompson and a 2009 graduate of North Montgomery High School. She will attend I.U.P.U.I. this fall to study nursing. Thank you Alli for "giving back" so promptly!

Planned Giving

There are many ways to approach planned giving and a bequest is just one of them.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

"I give, devise and bequeath [the sum of/percentage of/residue of my estate] to Montgomery County Community Foundation, a not-for-profit corporation in Crawfordsville, Indiana to be used for its general charitable purposes."

For more information about bequests or other methods of making a planned gift, visit our website at www.mccf-in.org. Under the "Resources" tab, click "Indiana Giving," then "More Planned Giving Feature." From there, there are many choices including a tool to "Create Your Own Plan." Please call us for assistance.

MCCF TRIVIA

1. Since 1995, which year saw the greatest return on MCCF investments?
2. Which year was lowest?
3. What is the average?

Answers:
1. 2003 at +28.2%
2. 2008 at -29%
3. 7.43%

Mace Veteran's Memorial Fund

After visiting the Mace Cemetery this spring and noticing the absence of the American flag, Stanley and Alice Harris decided something must be done. They felt very strongly that those laid to rest there, especially the veterans, should be shown the respect of having the flag displayed.

After looking into the matter, they learned that the reason the flag is not flown regularly is that proper etiquette requires that it be illuminated, either by sunlight or other means if it is to be flown continuously. Raising and lowering it at dawn and dusk would be difficult to coordinate. The Cemetery Association budget could not accommodate that expense of installation and maintenance of electric lighting.

Stanley and Alice established the Mace Veteran's Memorial Fund and per their wishes, income from the fund will provide the Association with the resources needed to properly display the American flag at all times and replace it as needed. What a kind and patriotic gesture!



Flag Etiquette

We all know it is disrespectful to fly a worn and tattered flag, but how does one properly dispose of such a flag? The American Legion, located at 101 Walter Remley Dr. just off S. Washington St. in Crawfordsville has a drop box for worn flags. Periodically, they have a service where the flags are properly destroyed.

Board Spotlight – Roy Kaser



MCCF is fortunate to have men and women in our community who are willing to share their time and talents serving on our Board

of Directors. Our Board members are loyal to our mission and supportive of our goals and objectives and we are so grateful for their diligence. Because of their vital role at the Foundation, we'd like to give you a closer look at our Board by profiling one member in each of our newsletters. In this edition our Board spotlight shines on **Board President Roy Kaser**.

Roy has lived in Crawfordsville since 1978 when he moved here to work for Crawfordsville Electric Light and Power. He now serves as manager of CEL&P as well as Accelplus. Working in a position such as this has given Roy the opportunity to have firsthand knowledge of the needs – and strengths - of our community.

Roy serves on our Board because he believes that "we all need to give back to those things that have been good to us." He strongly asserts that Montgomery County has been good to his family and his desire is for our community to continue to be a great place to live and work. He considers it an honor and privilege to serve in our organization but also recognizes the huge responsibility that comes with that service.

Roy's legacy would be to help others understand how important it is to do the right thing and to live honorably and respectfully as we honor our community, our country, and God. He regards the determination of the people in our community to make this an even better place along with the Montgomery County Community Foundation as two of our greatest assets.

Roy and his wife, Sandy, are blessed with three children and some of Roy's favorite activities include reading, traveling, watching sports, and working in the yard. We thank Roy for being a "shining" example of community service in our little corner of the world.

- Paula Reed

L. Ann Malott
Executive Director



Director's Notes

"We honor all the gallant men and women who have served this country. They defend the weak. They protect the oppressed. They give hope to the hopeless." This beautiful inscription can be found on the monument erected in honor of veterans at the Veteran's Memorial Mace Cemetery. One cannot help but feel pride at viewing this mark of respect placed for those whose lives were devoted to our country.

It was a somewhat chilly day for July as I walked under the tall, majestic pines that border this cemetery. I was impressed by the graceful lawns and tranquility.

Granted, I do not typically walk around graveyards in the middle of a summer afternoon; however, on this particular occasion I was there to view a fulfilled wish of two of our donors. And there it stood – our American flag proudly displayed high above the carved, scripted gravestones.

Not long ago I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Harris, a devoted couple who have strong feelings about maintaining a tribute to our veterans. They wanted to start a fund for that express purpose so that the flag will forever fly over the graves of many of their friends who gave everything for the sake of freedom. Mr. Harris served in WWII and he knows firsthand the sacrifices involved and the passion it takes to be a soldier. I was deeply touched by their patriotism and their desire to give back in such a meaningful way.

I am so thankful to live in a community where that same kind of passion and devotion flows freely. Our donors come from all walks of life holding different views and interests but they all share a

common desire to serve by giving back. I am moved by their stories and inspired by their legacies. Many people in Montgomery County have been and continue to be blessed by these gifts.

It is important to this special couple that we remember the flag and all it represents. And well we should. It stands for freedom – a gift we must all cherish and embrace, never taking for granted the cost of that freedom. As I turned to leave the cemetery, I noticed the inscription on the back of the monument: "May God bless all who serve." Indeed. The flag was gently rippling in the breeze - a fitting salute to the ones who served and now lie beneath its shadow.



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